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NEWS RELEASE

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD EXECUTIVE OFFICER ISSUES \$100,000 COMPLAINT TO OCHOA & SHEHAN, INC. FOR STORM WATER VIOLATIONS IN REDDING

The Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint to Ochoa & Shehan, Inc. in Redding in the amount of \$100,000 for violations of a construction storm water permit.

Ochoa & Shehan, Inc. is the owner and developer of Bel Air Estates a 120-acre construction project in Redding. The site is being developed into residential homes. Runoff from the site discharges to an unnamed creek, which is a tributary of the Sacramento River. Storm water violations occurred on several occasions during the 2005-2006 wet season that resulted in water quality impacts to the Sacramento River, and its tributary.

Ochoa & Shehan, Inc. had implemented a number of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to comply with its storm water construction permit. Violations occurred due to Ochoa & Shehan, Inc.'s failure to implement erosion control measures that were effective on the steepest slopes and to properly maintain and operate the BMPs in a manner to adequately protect water quality. Violations included the discharge of sediment-laden storm water into an unnamed tributary to the Sacramento River in November and December 2005. Prior to these discharges there were a number of BMP maintenance problems observed which lead to the discharge of sediment-laden storm water into tributaries of the Sacramento River.

The City of Redding holds a municipal storm water permit that requires inspection of construction sites and coordination with the Regional Water Board. In compliance with its municipal permit, the City of Redding worked with the Water Board to identify and document the violations by Ochoa & Shehan, Inc.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board may consider the complaint at its regular board meeting on October 26 or 27, 2006.